Syn. 7. 58. 11

The true reporte of the prosperous succesſe *which God gaue vnto our Engliſh Souldiours a-* gainſt the forraine bands of our Romaine enemies, lately ariued, (but ſone inough to theyr coſt) in Ireland, in the yeare. 1580.

Gathered out of the Letters of moſte credit and circumſtaunce, that haue beene ſent ouer, and more at large ſet forth then in the former printed Copie.

For a ſinguler comfort to all godly Chriſtians, & true harted ſubiectes, and an exceeding encouragement to them to perſiſt valiantly in their true Religion and faithe towards God, their due obedience and loue to their Prince, and to repoſe their whole aſſured confidence in the ſtrengthe of the Almightie, as moſte ſafe vnder the Shield of his protection.

Seene and allowed.

Imprinted at London for Edward White, dwelling at the little North doore of Paules Church, at the ſigne of the Gunne.

95-355

To the courteous, and worthy minded *Gentleman, Maiſter* George Gifford.

The good fortune of this life, and the happy poſſeſſion of eternall felicitie in the world to come, wiſhed.

IF your bounty (woorſhipfull Sir) did not aſſure me fauour in this my boldenes: I durſt not enter into ſuch a preſumption, much more to ſalute you with a publique requeſt. But yet your Courteſie commended, hath my duty commaunded, (though vnlearnedly, yet loouingly) that ſo liberall fauour, ſhould be gratified with loyall freendſhip. In token whereof, I (though the leaſt woorthy, yet the moſte willing) offer to the riche ſtorehouſe of your aboundaunt fauour, this little token of great good will, deſirous to deſerue that by dutie, which by nothing els I may demaund. Thus abiding in affection as forward as the beſt, though in abilitie I may not compare with the leaſt: I remaine bothe now and alwayes.

Yours in all dutie, as ſhall like you to deſire. *A.M.*

To the Reader.

BEcause there go many and diuers reports of the late conflict in Ireland, proceeding of sundry Letters sent ouer, which, although they agree in effect and substaunce of the matter, yet haue not euery one the same, nor any one the whole circumstaunce of the manner thereof: And hauing considered how that it is not onely vsuall among the people, to be desirous to know newes, but also necessary that this happy newes should be known vnto all (aswell to the true religious and obedient subiect, for his comfort, as to the superstitious disloyall recusant, for his vtter dismaying and confusion): I haue thought it not amis to bestow some light paines of my little leisure, in gathering one sound discourse out of those sundry fragments which haue come to my hands, some presented vnto me in writing out of Ireland, and some imparted vnto me (by the aduertisements of men of good credit) out of those letters which were sent vnto her Maiestie, the true collection whereof I present vnto the well affected Reader, in such order as the time would serue me to dispose them.

(*.*)

THe enimies lying (as it ſæmed) very ſurely entrenched in the Forte which they had made, which they called, *Il Caſtel del Oro*, and ſufficiently manned with Soldiers, to withſtand a farre greater force then our Engliſhe men were, they being in number ſixe hundreth within the Forte, and our men but eyght hundreth abroade: which is a verie unequall match (as they knowe well, which are ſkylfull, and haue bene exerciſed in thoſe aſſayes) conſidering the ods of place, the one being under couert, well fortified, and hauing their Ordinaunce, placed at all aduauntage, the other naked, utterly without Munition, or opportunity of placing any Ordinaunce, wherby to auoyde their enimies, being them ſelues continually ſubiect to their annoyaunce. The Lord Deputie, being (in ſo great diſaduauntage) almoſt in diſpayre of doing any good, was ſone recomforted with the happy arriuall of the Quenes Shippes, which it is to be thought that the verie great and wonderfull prouidence of God (quite beſide their expectation) ſent thither ſo luckely for their ſuccour. They being arriued, there were certayne great Peces brought out of the Shippes, and a Trench made, & that great Ordinaunce planted about fowre hundreth paces from the enimies Forte, to batter it: which Ordinaunce was ſo well plyed all that day (being the ninth of Nouember) that they galled the enimie greuouſlie, and beat them away from plying their Ordinaunce.

The Swift ſure, one of the Quenes Maieſtis ſhips, arriued at Smitherick xvii. daies before the reſt of her fellowes in which time, the enemy ſhot 30. ſhot a day, and neither could hit Ship nor man.

On the tenth day in the morning, they caſt an other Trench for ſmall ſhotte, within an hundreth, and three ſcore paces of the Forte, and began a freſhe batterie, and eſpying certayne Peces within the Forte, that were lyke to annoy the Campe, planted their Ordinaunce againſt them, and diſmounting two of their Demicanons, brake and defeated the reſt, to the number of fourteene or fiftene great Peces. And the ſame night made a third Trench for ſmall ſhotte, within a hundreth and twenty fote of the Fort. Afterward perceyuing that the Spaniſh Musket ſhot was the hotteſt, and eſpying a houſe of bordes, where they were bellowed: they beat

that downe with the Ordinance, and scattered the Puskets. Which done, the enimies finding them selues thus dismembred, and vtterlie dispoyled of their cheefe force, whereto they trusted: beganne to chaunge their countenaunce, and hung out their banners of Truce, quietly calling for Parle. Then issued out a braue Italian, who being demaunded by my Lord Deputie, who sent him thether: answered. The holy Father: Wyll you (sayd my Lord) aduenture in the seruice of a shaueling, an Antichrist, a murtherer bothe of soule & body, against such a Prince as my Maistresse is: You shall haue the iust reward of your seruice. And requiring him to bring forth the cheefe of the Spaniardes, he asked the sayd Spaniarde, who sent him thether: He sayd he could not tell. Whether the King of Spaine: He sayd no: Whether with the Kinges knowledge: He answered no: But (sayd he) at Porto in Portugall, the Gouernor there cõmaunded mee, to goe to such a place, where I should receyue my chardge, which I dyd, but whether I should goe, or against whome I knew not, and so brought to this place as blindfeld, and (as I see now) vtterly betrayed. Then (quoth my Lord) if you be not sent by the King, you come as a runnagate, and must receyue the lyke hyer.

They desiring to depart with the honor of Soldiers, it was denied them. Then resolued they to surrender vp the Fort, to yelde their money and Iewels, and other things of price, into the Lord Deputies handes, and them selues to his mercy: Whereof he accepting, receyued three of them pledges vntyll the next morning, when according to that conclusion, they returned, and the cheefe of them (whome it is needelesse to name, they onely remayning a lyue) to the number of twenty were saued. The rest to the number of fiue hundreth and sixe were slaine, and seuenténe hanged. The poore English Soldiors that lacked hose & shoes, and were barely cloathed, by means of this medley, foũd to apparell them, *Al modo Italiano*. Wine and Bisket they met with good store, and other victuals for a good space: fower thousand Armors, with many good Peeces, and (as they say) some reasonable share of Ecclesiasticall Italian money. In all this conflict there were onely two hurt of our men, whereof the one was Maister Iohn Cheeke, who is thought vnlikely to recouer. Thus may we see how God fighteth for vs, and subdueth our enemies, who by all mans rea-

Maister Iohn Cheeke my Ladie Cheekes sonne.

son

ſon and likelyhood were not to be ouerthrowne by ten times the nomber that our men were, in that vnreaſonable inequalitie of defence and furniture. For our men were in that opinion, that if they had bene within the Forte ſo well appointed of great and ſmall ſhot as the enemies were, it would haue coſt 10000. lyues before it would haue bene wonne. But by the good prouidence and aſſiſtaunce of God (notwithſtanding their great aduantage) the Lord Deputie with his worthy endeuor by land, and our ſhips (through their fortunate arriuall) by water did ſo coupe them vp on euery ſide, that they could no way eſcape. They ſayd that if our Ships had ſtayed but two dayes longer, out of that Harborough, they would haue bene gone. For at their firſt arriuall, there came fyre ſayle of them, being of men in number about 800. who ſo ſone as they beheld the barrenneſſe of the Countrey, and the brutiſhnes of the people, two of the greateſt Shippes departed home againe, with about 300. men in them, and left the reſt to take of the good entertainement that they looked for there: which (thanks be to God) they found not ſo ſatisfiable to their wicked expectacion, as agreeable to their iuſt deſarts, which would be incited by a blaſphemous Antichriſtian Prelate, againſt a true zealous Chriſtian Prince, wrongfully to inuade her rightfull inheritaunce and poſſeſſions, and to aſſiſt her diſobedient and rebellious Subiects, againſt their moſt gracious renowmed Soueraigne. Wherein, although the Popes holines forſawthe followed the fotefteps and example of his Predeceſſors, which haue bene euer ſowers of ſedition, raiſers of Rebellion, maineteyners of diſobedience, Authors of infinite bloudſhedding, which is euen growne to be the Badge of their Catholike (or rather Cacolike) profeſſion, and the true Cognisance of their holineſſe: yet theſe Gallants ſhould haue had more wit, to haue looked or they had leapt, and ſounded the depth, ere they had entred the ſhore of a forraine Princes dominion. But as theyr greedynes of gaine, or ſuperſtitious deuocion towardes an infamous Idole, hath brought them to the Shipwracke of theyr lyues (at the leaſt) ſo hath their vnaduiſed raſhnes vtterly ſunck, all excuſe of theyr guiltines, and pittie of theyr miſcarying. They confeſſed vnto my Lord Deputie, that the Pope theyr paymaiſter, whoſe Enſignes they ſpread on theyr Fort, with

his Crownes, Miters, Croskeyes, and other lyke trumperie, promised to send them a greater power, for which cause they brought much Treasure with them, b[illegible]ng appoynted to stay for that supplie, for which our English[illegible]en were not greatly sorie. It is reported that eyther they or other, were already comming at that tyme: for the fowreteenth of Nouember, there was escried a Pynnis, towardes the c[illegible]st of Irelande: but I take it to be rather an opinion or imagination of some cõming, conceyued through that former report: then any true apparaunce of the verie persons approching. Howsoeuer it be, it is no great matter, for our Soldiers stay there, and certayne of our Ships this winter, to welcome them.

The Earle of Desmond, and his brother Iohn, were cõming towards the reskew of the Spaniards & Italians: but hearing how the Forte was taken, and what was become of their assistaunts, they thought it wisdome to beware by their exãple and to kepe them selues out of such sharpe clawes, and so retyred them backe, & are fled into the Mountaynes. Our good coũtrymã of the Deuils owne dubbing, Doctor Saunders (an Apostata towards his Sauiour, an Archtraytor to his Soueraigne) is there in the countrey, but where, it is vnknowen. One of his mẽ was take in the Fort, & a Priest of that order, who were hanged & quartered in the Forte. Thus much hath bene certified out of Ireland, of what was done there before the fiftene day of Nouember last past. For which ioyfull and happy newes, let vs render harty thankes vnto our almighty protector, attributing the whole prayse thereof vnto his omnipotencie, beseching him to preserue our most gratious Princes, vnder whose prosperous gouernment we haue receyued bothe this & other infinite blessings at his hands: to strengthen our good Captaines and Soldiors, with force and power to ouercome our bodily foes, and vs al with his grace, to withstand the assaultes of the Deuill, and the tyranny of Antichrist his dearling (our spirituall enemy) & to serue our Redeemer in true feare and holynesse, and his true Ministers with due lowe and reuerence, to be faithfull vnto him, loyall to her Maiestie, lyke minded and charitable one to an other, to the glorie of his name: vnto whome all glorie, power, and dominion belongeth.

FINIS.